



YOUR MONTHLY MEMBER'S REPORT **FEBRUARY 2023**

BRAZIL

BIBLE POVERTY - AVAILABILITY, AFFORDABILITY, ACCESS OF SCRIPTURE IN THE LANGUAGE OF THE READERS.

In pre-European times, there were seven million indigenous people in Brazil. However, with the arrival of Europeans who brought disease and slavery in their wake, the indigenous population was reduced by 90 per cent. Today, out of a population of 217 million there are around 900,000 indigenous people consisting of 305 ethnic groups, who speak 274 languages.

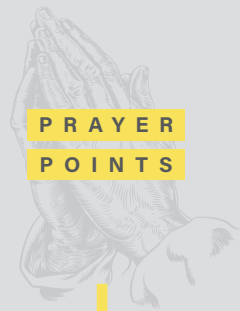
They live in 33,000 remote communities along the banks of the Amazon River or deep within the forest. Their way of life continues to be under threat from logging, cattle ranching, illegal mining, and drug trafficking. They also suffer from many other issues including alcoholism, illiteracy, and a lack of food.

Using a boat called the Luz na Amazonia (Light in the Amazon III), the Bible Society of Brazil is reaching out to these communities with Bibles and Scripture tools. These include Gospel films and audio recordings of the New Testament, which people listen to in Scripture listening groups. They also provide practical assistance, such as medical and dental care.

"Receiving you into this community is a great blessing from God. I see how much the community has improved. Before, there was a lot of fighting here. Now I see peace and people wanting to help each other," said Rosanne, a participant.

In August 2022, the Bible Society team visited three communities in the state of Pará, which is in northern Brazil and is traversed by the lower Amazon River. The team distributed Bibles and biblical materials, as well as providing medical and dental care. Your gift to Bible a Month Regular Giving will help to support this project this month.

Photo Credit © Bible Society Brazil



**PRAYER
POINTS**

INDIA

Please pray for Bible Society of India's volunteers who assist needy widows to deal with government agencies to get the aid they need.

ISRAEL

Please pray that God will touch the heart of marginalised women through the projects being run by the Arab Israeli Bible Society.

PERU

Please pray that more churches and pastors will include the prevention of domestic violence as part of their ministries.

GULF STATES

Please pray that newly trained church leaders will make a great impact on their congregations, and on other labourers in the labour camps.



Scan to get a look at our latest Prayer Booklet!

FURTHER BIBLE MISSION PROJECTS



INDIA

India is a country of 1.4 billion people with an estimated forty million widows. Many women marry young and are widowed at a young age because their husbands die from alcoholism, accidents, or diseases.

The Bible Society of India is reaching out to suffering widows with a Scripture engagement programme, where the women learn that God loves them. Along with Bibles, they receive counselling, health check-ups, legal assistance, and vocational training. One widow who has been helped through the programme is Mariama, whose husband used to beat her up when he was drunk, and who died at the age of thirty-five. Mariama now works as a maid in a Christian family home.

Photo Credit © Andrea Rhodes



ISRAEL

The Arab Israeli Bible Society (AIBS) is based in Nazareth. There are several groups living in Israel. They include Arab-Israelis who constitute more than 20 per cent of the citizens of Israel. Arab citizens of Israel include Muslims, Druze, as well as Christians. The number of Arab Christians is almost 140,000 people.

Arab women who are citizens of Israel encounter difficulties living in a patriarchal society and in a country that is marked with many conflicts. The Arab Israeli Bible Society is reaching out to Arab women, families, and youth through workshops and conferences, where they are taught life skills to deal with issues and emotions that they encounter in life

Photo Credit © Olivia Styles



PERU

In Peru, domestic violence against women in Peru is a pandemic, occurring across regions, income levels, education levels, and age groups. According to the United Nations, one in three Peruvian women will suffer from partner violence in her lifetime. The consequences are far-reaching with women receiving physical and psychological wounds and even being killed, as well as the broad social and economic impacts.

In 2009, the Peruvian Bible Society began a "Stop the Violence" campaign attempting to reduce the rates of domestic violence in their country. Partnering with churches, over fifty thousand people have participated in a "Building Healthy Families" course designed to strengthen families and prevent domestic violence. This work is continuing in 2023.

Photo Credit © Peruvian Bible Society



GULF STATES

Today, 70 per cent of Kuwait's population of 4.4 million is made up of migrant workers from over one hundred countries. They live in labour camps and are exploited by their employers. With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic all of this has become much worse.

Many migrant workers seek solace in Christianity and attend migrant churches. These churches are poor and often unable to afford to train their pastors, many of whom are converts from other faiths. The Bible Society in the Gulf is training church leaders from migrant churches in the basics of Christianity, such as running seminars on topics like, "Christian Leadership: How to Lead as Jesus Led."

Photo Credit © Bible Society in the Gulf



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